

BENCH BAR MEDIA CONFERENCE

Meeting of March 31, 1999
Conference Room
Delaware State Rest Stop
DuPont Highway
Smyrna, Delaware

In attendance:

Hon. Jack B. Jacobs
Hon. Henry duPont Ridgely
Hon. Randy J. Holland
Eugene H. Bayard
Richard D. Kirk
Michael Pelrine
Allen R. Loudell
Marilyn Buerkle
William D. Osborne

Minutes of the January 14, 1999 meeting were approved as circulated.

As for old business, the Conference:

- Held discussion about Delaware's procedures for media coverage of executions (in view of an impending execution on April 23).

- Held discussion about cameras in the courtroom. Justice Holland described a 1997 book called *An Open Courtroom* which details the history of cameras in New York's courts. Vice Chancellor Jacobs reported that Richard Herrmann has proposed to have Chancery Court arguments live on the Internet. It was also reported that the "courtroom of the future" was not yet ready. Bill Osborne reminded participants that the Conference had made a proposal regarding cameras in the courtroom to the Supreme Court in 1994. Marilyn Buerkle and Allen Loudell agreed to be the point people for any new demonstration of viability the Supreme Court might require.

- Held discussion about inviting speakers to a meeting to discuss the State Sunshine Law. Representatives of the Attorney General's office, lawyers for municipalities, lawyers for media outlets, and a representative of Common Cause were mentioned as desirable participants.

There being no other business the Conference adjourned.